

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs

FISCAL YEAR 1974-75

Submitted by

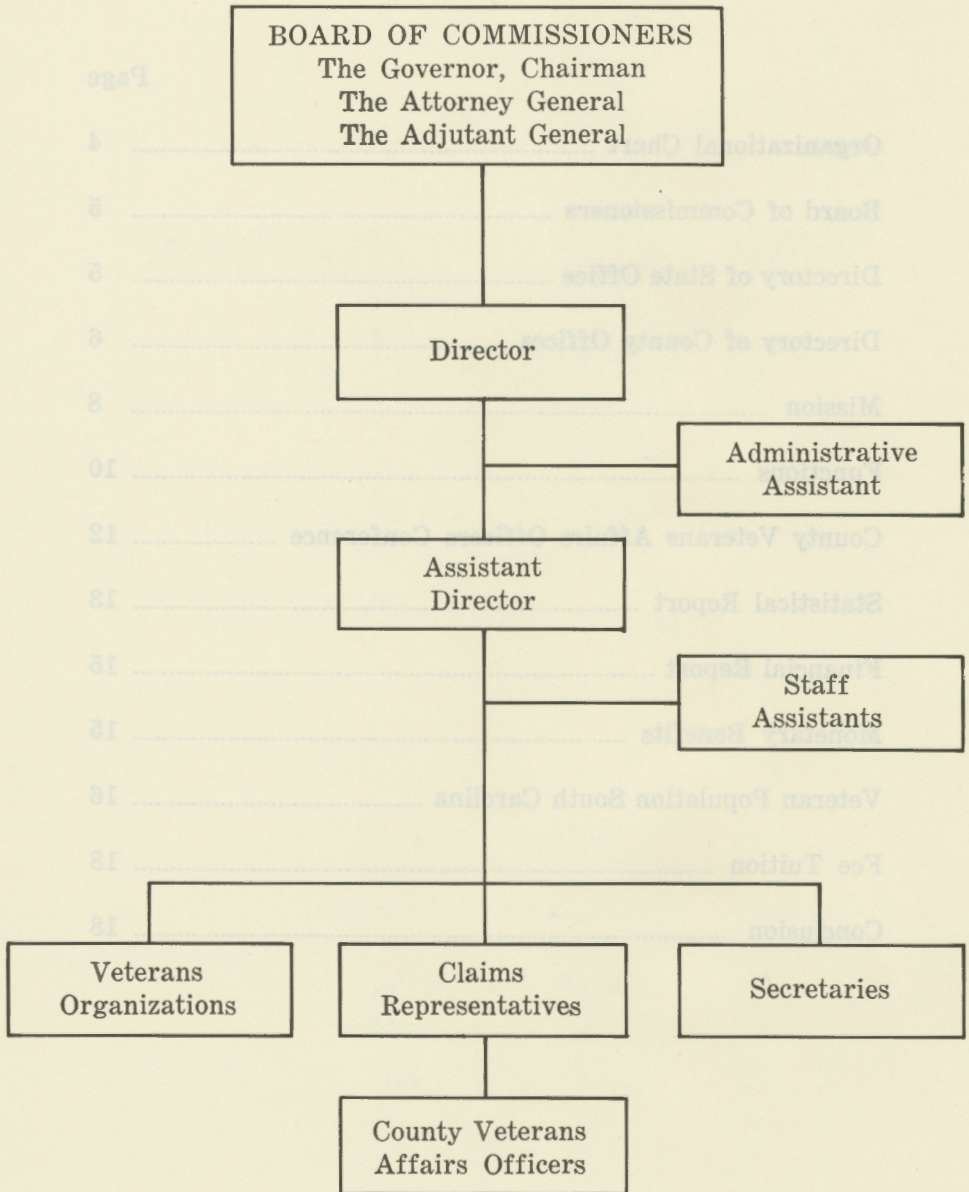
Hoyt B. Hill, Jr., Director
S. C. Department of Veterans Affairs
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina

September 1, 1975

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**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
OF
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

CHAIRMAN

Honorable James B. Edwards
Governor of South Carolina

Honorable Daniel R. McLeod	Honorable Robert L. McCrady
Attorney General	Adjutant General
of South Carolina	of South Carolina

DIRECTORY OF STATE OFFICE

Location: 1205 Pendleton Street, Columbia, S. C. 29201
Telephone No.: 758-2607

DIRECTOR

Hoyt B. Hill, Jr.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Grady D. Majors

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Nancy H. Goodwin

STAFF ASSISTANTS

Beverley J. Shirley
Erdene P. Haltiwanger

CLAIMS

REPRESENTATIVES

S. Ralph Ayers
Lawrie H. Harmon
W. Arthur Neal
David A. Osborn
John K. Tate
Jack M. Tiller

SECRETARIES

Virginia K. Chandler
Patricia A. Harris
Lettie W. Rogers
Eugenia G. Watts

DIRECTORY OF COUNTY OFFICES

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Abbeville	Charlie C. Murdock	Room 205 County Courthouse Abbeville, S. C. 29620	459-2608
Aiken	Lucien J. Hockman	226 Chesterfield St., S P. O. Box 357 Aiken, S. C. 29801	648-7846
Allendale	John H. Hewlett	Memorial Building Allendale, S. C. 29810	584-2942
Anderson	Fred S. Winstead	1621 North Main St. Anderson, S. C. 29621	224-3901
Bamberg	B. Monroe Hiers	109 North Street P. O. Box 416 Bamberg, S. C. 29003	245-2494
Barnwell	Douglas Gene Rowell	Room 101 County Office Building P. O. Box 871 Barnwell, S. C. 29812	259-3676
Beaufort	C. B. Epps, Jr.	County Office Building P. O. Box 97 Beaufort, S. C. 29902	524-3730
Berkeley	Joseph R. West	334 East Main Street P. O. Box 1241 Moncks Corner, S. C. 29461	899-2222
Calhoun	Eldred S. Robinson	Agriculture Building St. Matthews, S. C. 29135	874-3816
Charleston	Thomas R. Johnson, Sr.	Room 322 The Center Charleston, S. C. 29403	577-5111
Cherokee	Floyd A. Queen	County Courthouse Gaffney, S. C. 29340	489-5172
Chester	J. B. Cranford	War Memorial Bldg. P. O. Box 957 Chester, S. C. 29706	385-6157
Chesterfield	Harlan Campbell	101 Park Drive Chesterfield, S. C. 29709	623-2482
Clarendon	Norman J. McFaddin	Room 203 County Courthouse Manning, S. C. 29102	435-2527
Colleton	G. Herman Kinard	Agriculture Building P. O. Box 627 Walterboro, S. C. 29488	549-1412
Darlington	Clarence H. Jordan, Jr.	County Courthouse Darlington, S. C. 29532	393-1051
Dillon	William B. Huggins	Agriculture Building Dillon, S. C. 29536	774-9681

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Dorchester	George W. Thomas	County Courthouse P. O. Box 661 St. George, S. C. 29477	563-2331 Ex 216
Edgefield	Wilbur S. Crouch	County Courthouse P. O. Box 5 Edgefield, S. C. 29824	637-3224
Fairfield	Charles A. Medlin	County Courthouse P. O. Box 456 Winnsboro, S. C. 29180	635-4131
Florence	Mrs. Etta A. Jaillette	City-County Complex Box T Florence, S. C. 29501	665-3045
Georgetown	Ralph W. Hills	County Office Building P. O. Box 306 Georgetown, S. C. 29440	546-7734
Greenville	John W. Fortner	707 County Office Bldg. 130 South Main Street Greenville, S. C. 29601	242-3910 Ex 267
Greenwood	Thomas E. Fish	Room 108 County Courthouse P. O. Box 441 Greenwood, S. C. 29646	229-5500
Hampton	Perry L. Chisolm	B. T. DeLoach Office Bldg. P. O. Box 476 Hampton, S. C. 29924	943-2258
Horry	A. David Altman	County Health Center P. O. Box 385 Conway, S. C. 29526	248-9021
Jasper	J. E. Horton, Jr.	County Courthouse Ridgeland, S. C. 29936	726-8940
Kershaw	Harold R. Truesdale	Room 225 County Courthouse P. O. Box 691 Camden, S. C. 29020	432-4096
Lancaster	Ward M. Faulkenberry	County Courthouse P. O. Box 282 Lancaster, S. C. 29720	283-2469
Laurens	H. H. Watkins, Sr.	Courthouse Annex P. O. Box 193 Laurens, S. C. 29360	984-4041
Lee	John Z. King	Lee County Courthouse P. O. Box 461 Bishopville, S. C. 29010	484-5341 Ext. 254
Lexington	Robert S. Powell	Room 103 Community Building P. O. Box 811 Lexington, S. C. 29072	359-4225
McCormick	T. C. Faulkner, Jr.	County Office Building McCormick, S. C. 29835	465-4275
Marion	Joe S. Lane, Sr.	101 West Court Street Marion, S. C. 29571	423-6732

County	Officer	Location	Telephone No.
Marlboro	Frank S. Ward	County Courthouse P. O. Box 401 Bennettsville, S. C. 29512	479-2651
Newberry	Gerald C. O'Quinn	Room 11 County Courthouse P. O. Box 217 Newberry, S. C. 29108	276-3233
Oconee	Harrison E. Orr	Public Services Bldg. Broad Street Walhalla, S. C. 29691	638-2214
Orangeburg	George E. Hoover	County Courthouse P. O. Box 718 Orangeburg, S. C. 29115	534-6484
Pickens	C. Carl Pilgrim	County Courthouse P. O. Box 451 Pickens, S. C. 29671	878-4778
Richland	John E. Brewer	Room 275 2020 Hampton Street Columbia, S. C. 29204	779-4055
Saluda	Billy C. Coleman	101 West Church Street Saluda, S. C. 29138	445-2184
Spartanburg	M. Frank Edwards	Room 159 County Courthouse Spartanburg, S. C. 29301	585-4811 Ext. 266
Sumter	James W. Scarborough	County Courthouse Sumter, S. C. 29150	775-2346 Ext. 37
Union	Charles V. Blackwood	County Courthouse Union, S. C. 29379	427-3462
Williamsburg	Cecil H. Robinson	Office #6 Courthouse Square Kingstree, S. C. 29556	354-6352
York	Earle B. Gregory	County Office Building P. O. Box 16 Rock Hill, S. C. 29730	327-2956

MISSION

The Department of Veterans Affairs was originally created in 1927, as the State Service Bureau, by an Act of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina for the purpose "of assisting all ex-servicemen, regardless of the wars in which their service may have been rendered, in filing, presenting and prosecuting to final determination all claims which they have for money compensation, hospitalization, training and insurance benefits under the terms of federal legislation relative thereto."

The original Act was amended in 1945 by providing for a County Service Officer (now County Veterans Affairs Officer) in each of the forty-six counties in the state and restating the purpose, as amended, "to insure a stabilization and coordination of the service work for and in behalf of the war veterans and ex-servicemen and women of South Carolina, in order that they may be guaranteed the maximum benefits granted by laws enacted by the National Congress."

These services are extended to eligible dependents, including parents, widows, children and orphans of war veterans and ex-servicemen and women.

There are 320,000 living veterans in South Carolina as of June 30, 1975, and as our veterans become older, more and more of them become eligible for increased service connected disability payments or non-service pension payments. Also, the death of a veteran usually results in a claim being filed by his survivor, or survivors. Our ranks are additionally being swelled by our newly discharged veterans and retirees of the Regular Service.

It is impossible for our claims personnel to know everything about all of the benefits that may be available to veterans, their dependents, beneficiaries, widows and orphans, but we must be able to know where to find the answers. Periodic meetings sponsored by this Agency are held with our County Veterans Affairs Officers each year to keep them abreast of the changing laws and benefits available. These meetings are instructed by the personnel in this Agency and by technicians and officials from the Veterans Administration in Columbia and Washington.

The necessity for personal assistance to veterans in filing and pursuing claims and a continuing information program results from the legal principle that no veterans' benefits are awarded automatically—All Must Be Applied For. The Veterans Administration is not a "hand-out" agency as all claims allowed must be justified; hence, skill and knowledge in service work comes into being when we know what evidence is needed to bring about the favorable decision.

We believe that our record in serving South Carolina veterans, their dependents and survivors is equal to any in the

United States. The Veterans Administration does have authority to resolve benefit of reasonable doubt, based on all available evidence, in adjudicating cases and we are, therefore, able to have many "close" cases allowed on that basis.

FUNCTIONS

The primary function of this Department, and the majority of our time is spent, in working with and supervising our forty-six County Veterans Affairs Officers in helping them with individual cases in their respective counties.

Other major functions performed by the Department of Veterans Affairs in accordance with the law are as follows:

1. Assist veterans, their families and survivors in initiating, filing and prosecuting claims.
2. Represent veterans before the VA Rating Boards and the Board of Appeals.
3. Publish timely informational bulletins on technical rules and regulations relating to veterans' benefits.
4. Assist and cooperate with all veterans organizations in their work.
5. Conduct Veterans Affairs Officers Schools to instruct in veterans benefits.
6. Maintain complete files on all veterans whom we assist.
7. Assist similar agencies in other states in securing evidence needed in the development of claims.
8. Assist veterans insofar as possible in securing Social Security, Welfare, and related benefits.
9. Assist survivors and morticians in securing burial benefits.
10. Assist all public officials in aiding constituents on veterans affairs.
11. Assist legislators and others in appropriate veterans legislation.

12. Perform a humanitarian service in counseling disabled veterans, veterans' widows, dependent parents and orphans in complete realization of veterans benefits as they best apply in individual cases.
13. Assist veterans in filing applications for review of discharges and in obtaining disability retirement or an increase in disability retirement.
14. Assist in having veterans admitted to the VA Hospitals in Columbia, Charleston, Augusta and other adjacent areas.

A great amount of time is spent by our office personnel in reviewing records at the VA Regional Office, and that work must be done carefully and meticulously, since all of the facts must be known in each case that we handle if we are to expect to receive a favorable decision. We have hearings each day before the VA Rating Boards and much time is consumed in personal interviews, in counseling and in letter writing.

Claimants must be advised through their County Veterans Affairs Officers, or directly, of what can be done, if anything, and what evidence is necessary to establish a VA claim for monetary benefits. Such work is highly technical and a thorough knowledge of VA regulations and applicable legislation is absolutely essential.

In addition to representing claimants and supervising the work of forty-six County Veterans Affairs Officers in connection with VA compensation and pension claims, which is our principle work, we must have knowledge of the many other facets of veterans benefits such as GI training, GI insurance, VA hospitalization, Civil Service Preference, military hospital treatment, PX privileges, the different types of military retirement pay, War Orphans training, outpatient treatment, reimbursement of unauthorized medical expenses, dental treatment, burial in national and VA cemeteries, and a knowledge of South Carolina State legislation as it affects veterans.

The demands for our services come not only from County

Veterans Affairs Officers, but by request directly from veterans themselves throughout the state, their dependents and survivors, plus requests from elected public officials in behalf of their constituents.

We also find it necessary to deal constantly with other federal agencies, both locally and in Washington, and at other important government installations over the country. Many contacts by correspondence and telephone with other state agencies are made at frequent intervals. This activity involves a wide variety of subjects, but they are concerned with some problem of vital interest to the person we are trying to serve.

COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICERS CONFERENCE

In October, 1974, the annual conference on Income Questionnaires was sponsored by this office for our County Veterans Affairs Officers and their staffs.

In addition to our county personnel, representatives from the major Veterans Organizations were present along with officials from the Veterans Administration Hospitals at Columbia, Charleston, and Augusta.

One of the most time consuming, seasonal functions of this Department is assisting pensioners in filing income questionnaires which are required by the Veterans Administration each year. The laws and regulations of reporting income for pension purposes are constantly changing thus a meeting such as this is an essential part of our work.

Officials of the Veterans Administration Regional Office here in Columbia were in charge of giving instructions for the completion of Income Questionnaires.

ITINERANT SERVICES

This Agency has regular itinerant service to the Veterans Hospitals at Columbia, Charleston and Augusta in addition to itinerant service to the S. C. State Hospital where there are approximately 500 veterans and State Park which always has from 10 to 20 veterans in residence.

STATISTICAL REPORT

The following is a report of the number of cases and types of services rendered by the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs and the forty-six County Veterans Affairs Officers during FY 1974-75:

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

Claims:

Compensation, Pension, Education, Insurance and Reopened	4,988
Correction of Discharge/Records	114
Correspondence:	
Letters Dictated/Typed	12,456
Form Preparation	1,374
Hearings Conducted	178
Interviews	5,600
Mail:	
Incoming and Outgoing	103,288
Telephone Calls:	
Incoming and Outgoing	40,688
VA Files Reviewed	2,462
Visits To:	
CVAO's, Hospital Wards, VA Hospitals, VA Re- gional Office	2,476
Consultations	580
Files:	
Requisitioned, Received, Returned	11,416
Filed and Pulled	28,128
New Files/File Cards Made and Filed	3,518
Legislative Material:	
Calendars, Journals, Bills, Files for Bills	2,106
Miscellaneous:	
Articles and Deaths Clipped from Newspapers	4,526
Miscellaneous Reports	138
Visitors Received	1,778
Conferences Attended	8
Meetings Attended	8

FORTY-SIX COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICERS

Office Contacts	1,211,704
Letters and Communications Received	402,324
Official Visits to VA Installations, Department of Veterans Affairs and other points outside	
County	2,645
Miles traveled on official business	430,649
Compensation Claims prepared, reopened, and appealed	6,764
D. I. C. claims prepared for dependents	1,174

Pension Claims:

NSC-PT disability and death pension claims for dependents	7,782
Insurance applications, claims, etc.	4,816
Applications for hospital treatment	11,164
Requests for payment of burial expenses	6,077
Applications for GI education and training	9,689
Veterans personally conveyed to VA Hospitals	1,328
Applications for Correction of Military Records and/or Discharge Change	1,352

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 1974-75

Expenditures

Personal Services	\$ 170,166
Operating Expenses	
Contractual Services	10,800
Supplies	5,300
Fixed Charges & Contributions	15,741
Equipment	2,400
	34,241
Operation of County Offices	365,503
Veterans Organizations	25,931
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TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 595,841

MONETARY BENEFITS

The following is a report of the monetary benefits received by the veterans and the dependent survivors of deceased veterans in the State of South Carolina for the fiscal year July 1, 1974-June 30, 1975.

Compensation:

Living Veterans	\$ 38,623,519
Dependents of Deceased Veterans	13,422,259
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	\$ 52,045,778

Pension:

Living Veterans	\$ 24,103,297
Dependents of Deceased Veterans	18,505,943
	<hr/>

	\$ 42,609,240
Insurance and Indemnities	\$ 8,609,660
Burial Allowances	\$ 1,143,885
Educational Benefits	\$ 52,179,160
Auto Grants	\$ 280,092

Loans:

Direct	\$ 289,030
Guaranteed	\$ 2,022,354
Homes for Paraplegics	\$ 115,288
	<hr/>

\$ 2,426,672

Medical Services and Administration Costs\$ 32,177,580

TOTAL:\$191,472,067

VETERAN POPULATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA
JUNE 30, 1975

<i>County</i>	<i>Total Veterans</i>
ABBEVILLE	2,526
AIKEN	14,421
ALLENDALE	768
ANDERSON	16,108
BAMBERG	1,374
BARNWELL	1,855
BEAUFORT	3,580
BERKELEY	4,605
CALHOUN	672
CHARLESTON	32,678
CHEROKEE	4,540
CHESTER	3,294
CHESTERFIELD	3,164
CLARENDON	1,375
COLLETON	2,366
DARLINGTON	5,788
DILLON	2,366
DORCHESTER	2,782
EDGEFIELD	1,342
FAIRFIELD	1,855
FLORENCE	9,496
GEORGETOWN	3,357
GREENVILLE	37,090
GREENWOOD	7,259
HAMPTON	1,503
HORRY	7,610
JASPER	1,341
KERSHAW	3,899
LANCASTER	5,693
LAURENS	6,491
LEE	1,087
LEXINGTON	11,399

MARION	2,621
MARLBORO	2,175
McCORMICK	672
NEWBERRY	3,837
OCONEE	6,428
ORANGEBURG	6,363
PICKENS	7,866
RICHLAND	33,893
SALUDA	1,535
SPARTANBURG	25,771
SUMTER	6,651
UNION	4,474
WILLIAMSBURG	2,175
YORK	11,894
TOTAL	320,039
VETERANS RECEIVING	
SERVICE CONNECTED	
COMPENSATION	22,009
VETERANS DRAWING	
NONSERVICE	
CONNECTED PENSION	15,680

FREE TUITION

This agency administers the Free Tuition Program for the children of certain veterans under the provisions of Section 22-56 of the 1962 Code of Laws, as amended.

During the last four fiscal years, a total of 495 applications have been approved for Free Tuition for all colleges, technical schools or technical institutions and the number for each fiscal year is listed below:

1974-75	321
1973-74	99
1972-73	50
1971-72	25

It has also been a pleasure for this agency to work with the fine cooperation of the Commissioners: Honorable James B. Edwards, Governor; Honorable Robert L. McCrady, The Adjutant General; and Honorable Daniel R. McLeod, The Attorney General.